



HEALTH RESEARCH &
EDUCATIONAL TRUST
In Partnership with AHA



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NEWS RELEASE

HRET Receives 2012 Bronze Award for “Commitment to Excellence” *Award honors continuous improvement principles*

CHICAGO – December 3, 2012 – Illinois Performance Excellence (ILPEX) today announced that the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) of the American Hospital Association (AHA) was a recipient of the 2012 Bronze Award for “Commitment to Excellence” for demonstrating sound and notable continuous improvement principles. Recipients of the ILPEX Bronze Award have demonstrated earnest efforts to adopt and apply continuous improvement principles, following the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence.

“I couldn’t be more proud of our staff and today’s announcement reflects the incredible work they are doing,” said Maulik Joshi, HRET president and senior vice president of the AHA. “A quality journey is never done, but this acts as a marker for where we will go as we fulfill our mission to transform health care through research and education.”

HRET will be formally honored at the 18th annual award recognition ceremony, “Saluting Excellence,” on March 22, 2013, in Naperville, Ill. Founded in 1994 as the Lincoln Foundation for Performance Excellence, ILPEX uses the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence to determine performance excellence of select Illinois organizations from five sectors: business, education, government, health care and not-for-profit. Since its inception, more than 200 organizations have participated, all in the pursuit to improve processes and performance and promote the economic success of the state.

"Congratulations to HRET and all of its employees for its commitment to an on-going journey to excellence, adopting a proven performance method, principles and strategies that nurture excellence in all aspects of an organization," says Darcy Davidsmeyer, President and CEO of Illinois Performance Excellence. "HRET is taking the lead in its industry to address organizational performance and process/resource alignment with the outcome for better efficiencies, focus and overall results."

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HRET's key strategic goals are to create a high performing organization and conduct applied research and performance improvement. HRET also leads the AHA's strategy to accelerate performance improvement in the nation's hospitals - Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence (HPOE). These goals are reflective of HPOE's strategic priorities to support national implementation of clinical improvement projects; share best practices; produce action guides, reports and toolkits for the field; and provide leadership development programs, which serve to accelerate performance improvement in U.S. hospitals.

For more information about the Baldrige Performance Excellence Award or the ILPEX Awards for Excellence please visit <http://www.nist.gov/baldrige/> or www.ilpex.org, respectively.

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Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET)

Founded in 1944, the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) is the not-for-profit research and education affiliate of the American Hospital Association (AHA). HRET's mission is to transform health care through research and education. HRET's applied research seeks to create new knowledge, tools, and assistance in improving the delivery of health care by providers in the communities they serve. For more information about HRET, visit www.hret.org.

About Illinois Performance Excellence

Illinois Performance Excellence (ILPEX) empowers organizations to understand and use the framework of the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence, moving to a systematic "view" which translates into alignment and sustainability. As a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization, ILPEX's vision is to create a culture of excellence that is pervasive throughout Illinois. For more information on how your organization can benefit from services provided by Illinois Performance Excellence visit www.ilpex.org.